IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

t Unit: 2851

Commissioner for Patents BOX PATENT APPLICATION Washington, D.C. 20231

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

## IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Immediately after the title, please insert the following:

—This application is a division of Application No. 09/203,510, filed December 1, 1998.—

## REMARKS

This is a division of Application No. 09/203,510, filed December 1, 1998. Applicant intends to file new claims shortly. Accordingly, it is requested that the Examiner not issue an Office Action in this case until the new claims are filed.

An early and favorable Office Action on the merits is respectfully requested once the new claims have been presented.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 996

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO 30 Rockefeller Plaza New York, New York 10112-3801 Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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